



North West Water Authority

Dawson House, Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LW
Telephone Penketh 4321

8th November, 1976.

To: Members of the Regional Fisheries
Advisory Committee
(Messrs. J. R. S. Watson (Chairman);
T. A. Blackledge; F. Burgess; J. M. Croft;
E. P. Ecroyd; T. M. Farrer; J. H. Fell;
E. H. Fleming Smith; A. E. Hall; W. F. Hobson;
R. D. Houghton; P. W. Jennings; Wm. McKenna;
R. A. Parkin; G. B. Robinson; G. Wilson; and
the Chairman of the Authority (P. J. Liddell);
and the Vice Chairman of the Authority
(J. A. Foster) (ex officio)).

Dear Sir,

A meeting of the REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE will be held at 2.15 p.m. on MONDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 1976, in the BOARD ROOM at DAWSON HOUSE, GREAT SANKEY, for the consideration of the following business.

Yours faithfully,

G. W. SHAW,

Director of Administration.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated).
3. Proceedings of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees.
 - A. South and West Cumberland - 18th October, 1976
[Recommendation in Minute No. 5 -
Fish stocking by the Authority]
 - B. Eden and District - 19th October, 1976
[Recommendations in the following Minutes:-
 5. Fish Stocking by the Authority.
 7. Part Season Fishing Licences for
Salmon and Migratory Trout]
 - C. South Lancashire - 20th October, 1976
[Recommendation in Minute No. 4 -
Fish Stocking by the Authority]

D. Lune, Wyre and Furness - 25th October, 1976
[Recommendations in the following Minutes:-

4. Manchester Water Order, 1966 -
Fisheries Improvement Work on the
River Leven.
5. Fish Stocking by the Authority]

E. Mersey and Weaver - 27th October, 1976
[Recommendation in Minute No. 4 -
Fish Stocking by the Authority]

4. Fisheries in the Ownership of the Authority.
5. Fish Stocking by the Authority.
6. Use of dogs as an aid to Bailiffs.
7. Alternative Water Resource Development.
8. Netting on the Solway Firth.
9. Worthington Reservoirs.
10. Any Other Business.

NOTE: Lunch will be served in the Members' Dining Room at approximately 1.00 p.m. The Menu for the day is enclosed and members attending for lunch are asked to indicate their choice of main course to the officer on duty near the Members' Retiring Room.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SOUTH AND WEST CUMBERLAND
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

18TH OCTOBER, 1976

Present: F. Bunting, Esq. S. G. Payne, Esq.
W. F. Hobson, Esq. G. B. Sedgewick, Esq.
J. M. Mawson, Esq. R. J. W. Slack, Esq.
G. N. F. Wingate, Esq.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Mr. W. F. Hobson be appointed Chairman
of the South and West Cumberland Advisory
Committee for the ensuing "Authority Year".

[W. F. HOBSON, ESQ., CHAIRMAN]

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from
Mr. P. J. Liddell, Mr. A. C. Mathews, Mr. J. C. Wade,
Mr. J. R. S. Watson and Mr. E. Young.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the
Committee held on 28th June, 1976, be approved as
a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. DROUGHT SITUATION

A report was submitted detailing the current drought situation
in the Authority Area. Although the prohibitions imposed on certain
prescribed uses of water had now been lifted throughout the Authority
Area, applications for Orders under Section 1(3)(e) of the Drought
Act, 1976, had been made to the Secretary of State in respect of
Ennerdale and Thirlmere. The application in respect of Ennerdale
had subsequently been withdrawn, whereas an Order in respect of
Thirlmere authorising a reduction in the compensation water released
into the St. John's Beck came into force on 1st October, 1976.

Concern having been expressed at the effect this reduction
might have on fisheries, the Regional and Area Fisheries Officers
informed members that they had been fully consulted prior to sub-
mission of the applications and had used their best endeavours to
minimise as far as possible, bearing in mind the seriousness of the
situation in respect of the maintenance of water supplies throughout
the Region, any harmful effects the reductions might have on the
fisheries.

The officers assured members that as soon as the current situation improved, normal flows would be restored to all waters within the Authority's Region.

5. FISH STOCKING BY THE AUTHORITY

The Regional Fisheries Officer presented a paper setting out his views in relation to the stocking of waters depleted of fish by reason of both natural and unnatural means, together with his proposals for a future policy which might be adopted by the Authority in relation to such stocking with either trout or fresh-water fish.

He explained that the recommendations set out in this paper had deliberately been made flexible to enable the Authority to exercise a discretion whenever a question of stocking or re-stocking arose, due regard being given to the particular circumstances in which a depopulation in stock in any particular water might have occurred.

In response to questions concerning fish mortalities in club or association waters and which could be attributed solely to a pollution caused by persons or bodies other than the operations of the Authority itself, the Regional Fisheries Officer suggested that again all the circumstances should be reviewed, but that given a situation whereby a fishery would suffer if the Authority did not assist in any re-stocking, it should, within the limitation of its resources assist in this connection. If later an affected party should recover by way of damages compensation for such pollution, then that party should reimburse the cost of the re-stocking carried out by the Authority.

After a full discussion of the proposals it was

RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee approve the recommendations incorporated at (a) to (f) in paragraph 7 of the report.

6. BRANTHWAITE WEIR

The Regional Fisheries Officer reported that subsequent to the last meeting of the Committee the doubts which had existed in relation to the ownership of the mill house, weir and other associated properties, and rights which it had been suggested the vendor might have reserved to himself in the sale, had now been resolved and that the present owner appeared to own everything which he claimed. A further but unsuccessful approach had been made to the owner with a view to reaching voluntary agreement with him on the construction of a fish pass. The problem at the weir had been heightened this summer due to the exceptional drought conditions and the bailiffing staff had had to move migratory fish, which had congregated in the waters below the weir, into the upper reaches by hand net.

The existing situation was clearly unsatisfactory and could apparently only be resolved by the installation of a fish pass. Informal talks had taken place between the officers and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and it was understood that the Ministry would make no objection to the installation of such a pass provided it was so constructed that water would flow over it at all times.

RESOLVED:

That the officers in association with the Chairman of this Committee pursue the matter further with a view to obtaining the approval of the owner of the weir to the installation of a fish pass at Branthwaite Weir.

7. REPORT BY AREA FISHERIES OFFICER
ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on Fisheries Activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee.

Discussion took place on the following matters:-

(1) General Report - Rivers and Fishing

Commenting on the effect of the summer drought and the compensation flow from Ennerdale Lake into the River Ehen, the Area Fisheries Officer advised the Committee that the compensation flow, normally 7 mgd, fell to 1.6 mgd on 30th August.

Concern was expressed that the planks installed on 4th September to block the fish pass at Yearl Weir in order to allow continued industrial abstraction, would interfere with the upstream migration of fish. Members were assured that the recent heavy rainfall and consequent increased river flow had ensured that there was no interference with upstream migration albeit these planks were still in position it having been too dangerous to remove them at present due to the increased flows. As soon as conditions improved the planks would be removed.

(2) Stocking

The Area Fisheries Officer informed the Committee that 300 rainbow trout had been introduced into the Cogra Moss on each occasion on 10th June, 16th July and 27th August, by the Cockermouth Angling Association.

(3) Surveys/Experiments

(4) Fish Transfers

(5) Fish Mortalities/Disease

(6) Radio Equipment for Bailiffing Staff

The Committee were informed that the new radios had now been issued, one radio between two bailiffs, and that these could be charged by means of the battery charging apparatus installed in the cars. The operative range was adequate.

(7) Holmwrangle Hatchery

(8) Prosecutions.

The Committee expressed their appreciation of the speed with which cases concerning the prosecution of offenders for fishery offences were now being brought before the courts, namely six to eight weeks, but expressed concern that penalties inflicted upon convicted offenders remained low. It was explained that in all cases the imposition of penalties was at the discretion of the individual court.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EDEN AND DISTRICT
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

19TH OCTOBER, 1976

Present: A. E. I. Bell, Esq. B. Irving, Esq.
 E. Cave, Esq. J. S. Marshall, Esq.
 E. H. Fleming Smith, Esq. R. K. Nicholson, Esq.
 L. Heyworth, Esq. Dr. I. J. Faulkener.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Mr. E. P. Ecroyd be appointed Chairman of the Eden and District Fisheries Advisory Committee for the ensuing 'Authority Year'.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

RESOLVED:

That in the absence of Mr. E. P. Ecroyd, Mr. E. H. Fleming Smith be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

(E. H. FLEMING SMITH, ESQ., CHAIRMAN)

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. T. Cousins, Mr. E. P. Ecroyd, Mr. A. C. Findlay, Mr. P. J. Liddell, Mr. Wm. McKenna, and Mr. J. R. S. Watson.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 29th June, 1976, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. FISH STOCKING BY THE AUTHORITY

The Regional Fisheries Officer presented a paper setting out his views in relation to the stocking of waters depleted of fish by reason of both natural and unnatural causes, together with his proposals for a future policy which might be adopted by the Authority in relation to such stocking with either trout or fresh-water fish.

He explained that the recommendations set out in this paper had deliberately been made flexible to enable the Authority to exercise a discretion whenever a question of stocking or re-stocking arose, due regard being given to the particular circumstances in which a depopulation in stock in any particular water might have occurred.

In response to questions concerning the policy to be adopted in relation to waters in which there had been a diminution in fish populations for no apparent reason and not due to over-fishing, it was explained that in such a situation the appropriate course of action would be for a scientific survey to be carried out on the water concerned in order to ascertain the reasons, if any, for the absence of fish prior to any decision as to re-stocking or otherwise being made. In relation to paragraph 6 of the Report, 'Stocking with Coarse Fish', concern was expressed that should the supply of such fish contained in pools and used for stocking other waters prove insufficient, rivers in the area might then be used as an alternative source of supply which could lead to a decrease in fish stocks in that particular river. The Regional Fisheries Officer explained that in these circumstances, depletions in stocks would readily be made good as any vacuum would be filled by fish coming in from other areas of the river in question which had not been netted.

On the subject of pollution affecting fish stocks in waters other than those which are owned or controlled by the Authority (paragraph 7(e)) the Regional Fisheries Officer suggested that in all cases the situation should be reviewed, but given a situation whereby a fishery would suffer if no assistance were given by the Authority in any re-stocking, then the Authority should, within the limitation of its resources assist in this connection. If an affected party should later recover damages by way of compensation for such pollution, then that party should reimburse the Authority the cost of the re-stocking it had carried out.

After further discussion it was

RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee approve the recommendations incorporated at (a) to (f) in paragraph 7 of the Report.

6. DROUGHT SITUATION

A Report was submitted detailing the current drought situation in the Authority Area. Although the prohibitions imposed on certain prescribed uses of water had now been lifted throughout the Authority Area, applications for Orders under Section 1(3)(e) of the Drought Act, 1976, had been made to the Secretary of State in respect of Haweswater and Wet Sleddale Reservoir, and Ullswater. These applications had now been granted and were effective for a period of six months. The Haweswater and Wet Sleddale Order authorised a reduction in the compensation water released into the River Lowther, with effect from 8th October, 1976; and the Ullswater Order authorised a reduction in the compensation water released into the River Eamont, with effect from 14th October, 1976.

Concern having been expressed at the effect the implementation of the Order respecting Ullswater might have on the flow of the River Eden and consequentially the effect on the fisheries, the Committee was informed that after the six months period the Authority could, if no improvement in the situation took place, apply for an extension although it was hoped that the recent heavy rainfall would obviate the need for this.

The Regional Fisheries Officer informed members that he had been fully consulted prior to any applications for Orders being made and that although in the ordinary course of events he would not have agreed to the drastic cuts in relation to compensation waters and river flows which had now been implemented, the situation brought about by the drought was of such a serious nature that it was felt the measures taken had been for the benefit of all concerned in respect of the maintenance of water supplies throughout the Region. Although ideally the Authority would have wished to have had consultations with individual bodies and organisations prior to submitting the applications for the various Drought Orders, the urgency of the situation had rendered this impossible.

The officers assured members that as soon as the current situation improved, normal flows would be restored to all waters within the Authority Region.

7. PART SEASON FISHING LICENCES
FOR SALMON AND MIGRATORY TROUT

It was reported that Brampton Angling Association had requested that consideration be given to an adjustment of the commencement date of the Authority's second part season salmon and migratory trout fishing licence.

Currently the commencement date for this licence is 1st June and the Association had suggested that the commencement date be brought forward to 1st May, as they claimed that early runs of migratory trout were now entering the River Irthing during the month of May.

Members were reminded that the question of the appropriate date for the commencement of the second part season licence had been considered by the Regional Committee when revision of licence duties was under discussion in 1974-75. At that time, although it had been acknowledged that some migratory trout might come in to rivers in the Authority Area during the latter part of May, the general opinion amongst members had been that such fish were not usually available to anglers in appreciable numbers before 1st June.

As no other requests to vary the dates of the part season licences had been received and no objections had been made when the present licensing provisions had been advertised in 1975, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That no modification be made to the existing system.

8. REPORT BY AREA FISHERIES OFFICER
ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on Fisheries Activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee.

The Report incorporated items on the following matters:-

- (1) General Report - Rivers and Fishing.
- (2) Stocking.
- (3) Fish Rescues and Fishery Surveys.
- (4) Fish Mortalities.

Commenting on the fish mortality which took place at Skitwath Beck, near Penruddock on 6th August caused by the leakage of concrete washings from a culvert on the A66 construction site, the Manager of the Rivers Division informed members that an additional member of staff had been appointed in the Water Quality Department in order to ensure that appropriate liaison took place with promoting Authorities during the construction periods of future works in order that pollution problems were minimised. This officer was due to take up his duties early in November and would be responsible for, amongst other matters, any works carried out on the A66.

(5) Radio Equipment for Bailiffing Staff.

The Committee were informed that the new radios had now been issued, one radio between two bailiffs, and that these could be charged by means of the battery charging apparatus installed in the cars. The operative range was adequate.

(6) Holmwrangle Hatchery

Amongst other current fish stocks at the Hatchery were 2,503 salmon of 0+ years, average weight 22 gm from the River Eden, and 1,440 sea trout of 0+ years, average weight 38 gm from the Northumberland area.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be received;
- (2) That Mr. D. Short, the manager of the hatchery be complimented on the excellent manner in which the records at the hatchery were kept.

9. PROTECTION OF FRY

At the last meeting of the Committee held on 29th June, 1976, the Regional Fisheries Officer was asked to liaise with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to ascertain the present state of scientific knowledge in relation to the feeding habits of cormorants and mergansers. His findings had been incorporated into a Report circulated to members.

Commenting on this Report, the Regional Fisheries Officer informed the Committee that he had subsequently followed up the comments made to him by the Society and studied the various sources and publications recommended by them.

As a result of his researches, he was of the opinion that the extermination of these predator birds was unnecessary, a view which was strengthened by the attitude of the Society who were opposed to operating bounty schemes for birds, their experience being that the introduction of a commercial aspect led to a certain amount of exploitation taking place.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and approved.

10. REPORT ON SEMINAR ON WATER
CONDITIONS HARMFUL TO FISH LIFE

The Regional Fisheries Officer reported that this Seminar had taken place on 24th July, 1976, at the Headquarters of Bolton Angling Association, and had been conducted by himself and the Divisional Scientist, Rivers Division and had proved to be very successful.

11. HOLMWRANGE HATCHERY
INSTALLATION OF STAND-BY PUMP

In response to questions from members concerning the installation of the stand-by pump in the secondary borehole at the hatchery, the Manager, Rivers Division, explained that this was still not operative but that it should be installed and in operation by the end of November. At the request of members he agreed to report the latest position to the next meeting of the Committee.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYMINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH
LANCASHIRE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE20th OCTOBER, 1976

Present: T.A.F. Barnes, Esq. R.D. Houghton, Esq.
Dr. R.B. Broughton J. Johnson, Esq.
R. Farrington, Esq. Professor W.E. Kershaw
J.A. Foster, Esq. R.H. Wiseman, Esq.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Mr. R.D. Houghton be appointed Chairman of the South Lancashire Fisheries Advisory Committee for the ensuing "Authority Year".

(R.D. HOUGHTON, ESQ. CHAIRMAN)

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. T.A. Blackledge, Mr. P.J. Liddell and Mr. J.R.S. Watson.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That subject to the addition of the words "on Sundays only in connection with authorised match fishing" at the end of Recommendation 25(1) the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 30th June, 1976, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. FISH STOCKING BY THE AUTHORITY

The Regional Fisheries Officer presented a paper setting out his views in relation to the stocking of waters depleted of fish due to both natural and unnatural causes, together with his proposals for a future policy which might be adopted by the Authority in relation to such stocking with either trout or fresh-water fish.

He explained that the recommendations set out in this paper had deliberately been made flexible to enable the Authority to exercise a discretion whenever a question of stocking or restocking arose, due regard being given to the particular circumstances in which a depopulation in stock in any particular water might have occurred.

Commenting on item 7(a) of the Report, concerning fisheries destroyed or damaged by pollution from a sewage treatment works

or other installation operated by the Authority, the Regional Fisheries Officer explained that cases might arise in which a pollution caused by persons or bodies other than the operations of the Authority itself involved fish mortalities in club or association waters. He suggested that in such circumstances, the situation should be fully reviewed and if it were felt that a fishery would suffer if the Authority did not assist in any restocking, it should do so within the limitation of its resources. If later an affected party should recover by way of damages compensation for such pollution, the Authority should be reimbursed for the cost of restocking carried out.

After a full discussion it was

RECOMMENDED:

That as a future policy

- (1) The Authority may undertake restocking in order to restore a fishery, destroyed or damaged by pollution from a sewage treatment works or other installation operated by the Authority;
- (2) The Authority stock adequately waters including reservoirs which it owns or leases, where fishing is made available on permit to the public;
- (3) In order to meet the commitments at (1) and (2) above, the Authority may buy from commercial sources, use existing facilities or set up new facilities as may be considered most effective and convenient for the purpose;
- (4) In the case of coarse fish, once facilities have been established the Authority should be able to supply fish to clubs for restocking their waters;
- (5) On waters other than those which they own or control, the Authority at its own discretion, and with the prior consent of the owners, carry out any stocking which may appear necessary for the maintenance improvement and development of fisheries, and in doing so, may obtain fish for that purpose from whatever source may appear most suitable;
- (6) The question of charging for the supply of fish should be considered on its merits in each case and any charge made should be broadly in line with current market prices for the fish involved;
- (7) The Authority consult with the Association(s) concerned prior to carrying out any restocking.

5. DROUGHT SITUATION

A report was submitted which detailed the current drought situation in the Authority area. Although the prohibitions imposed on certain prescribed uses of water had now been lifted throughout the Authority area, applications for Orders under Section 1(3)(e) of the Drought Act, 1976, had been made to the Secretary of State in respect of the following reservoirs:-

- (1) Stocks Reservoir: authorising a restriction in the compensation water released into the River Hodder. Order came into force on 30th September, 1976.
- (2) Lower Caldwell Reservoir: authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the Catlow Brook. Order awaiting approval.
- (3) Blackmoss Reservoir: application for Order withdrawn.
- (4) Walverden Reservoir: application for Order withdrawn.

Application had also been made for an Order authorising the Authority to abstract water from the Rivers Brennand and Whitendale. This Order came into force on 30th September, 1976.

An additional application in respect of an Order which would permit the Authority to abstract water below the present permitted minimum flows in the Langden and Hareden streams was awaiting approval.

Concern having been expressed that the reduction in river flows would have an adverse effect on spawning fish, the Regional and Area Fisheries Officers informed members that they had been fully consulted prior to submission of the Orders and, bearing in mind the seriousness of the situation in respect of the maintenance of water supplies throughout the Region, they had used their best endeavours to minimise as far as possible any harmful effects the reductions might have on fisheries.

The Officers assured members that as soon as the current situation improved sufficiently, normal flows would be restored to all waters within the Authority Region.

6. GRANTING OF LEASES FOR ANGLING ON AUTHORITY WATERS

A letter had been received from the Lancashire Fisheries Consultative Association which expressed the view that angling associations should be able to obtain satisfactory periods of tenure on waters leased by the Authority in order to enable them to plan in the longer term and to enjoy the benefits of Sports Council grants.

Members were informed that the Officers had this matter under consideration at the present time, pending the formulation of a recreational policy by the Authority. The problem was complicated due to the conflicting recreational pursuits involving the use of water. It was however the present policy of the Authority to grant extensions of existing leases for angling on waters in the ownership of the Authority for periods of twelve months only, except for special cases where the question of grant-aid might be involved.

Members expressed the view that in the granting of any long term leases existing tenants should have preference if their previous tenancies had been satisfactory.

7. REPORT BY AREA FISHERIES OFFICER
ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on Fisheries Activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee.

Discussion took place on the following matters:-

- (1) The effect of the hot summer on fisheries
- (2) Artificial propagation
- (3) Fish monitoring stations.

Commenting on the current situation, the Area Fisheries Officer informed the Committee that the total numbers of fish recorded for the year, which had passed through the Authority's monitoring stations up to 16th October, 1976, totalled 734 at the Waddow Weir station and approximately 500 at the Winckley station.

It was suggested that in keeping these records account should be taken of the period of time (day or night) at which fish were monitored at these stations. This would assist in any analysis made at a later date.

- (4) Fish mortalities.

Serious concern was expressed concerning the fish mortality which occurred on the Ribble Ribble at Henthorn on 10th July, 1976, due to pollution from Clitheroe Sewage Works, and at the continuing pollution from this source. The need for both members and the general public to be kept informed of any action taken by the Authority in relation to such occurrences was emphasised. The Manager of the Rivers Division undertook to discuss the matter with Mr. Barnes as a matter of urgency.

- (5) Coarse fish transfers
- (6) Poaching
- (7) Langcliffe Hatchery.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be received and approved;
- (2) That a full report concerning the fish mortality on 10th July, 1976, be submitted by the Manager of Rivers Division to the next meeting of the Committee.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LUNE, WYRE AND FURNESS
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

25TH OCTOBER, 1976

Present:	W. Bailey, Esq.	A. L. Harris, Esq.
	R. Barratt, Esq.	L. Hill, Esq.
	R. A. Challenor, Esq.	G. A. Martin, Esq.
	J. M. Croft, Esq.	J. Taylor, Esq.
	J. H. Fell, Esq.	G. Wilson, Esq.
	J. R. S. Watson, Esq.	

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Mr. J. M. Croft be appointed Chairman of the Lune, Wyre and Furness Fisheries Advisory Committee for the ensuing "Authority Year".

(J. M. CROFT, ESQ. CHAIRMAN)

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Major N. J. Clarkson Webb, Dr. J. V. Dyer, and Mr. P. J. Liddell.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5th July, 1976, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MANCHESTER WATER ORDER 1966 - FISHERIES
IMPROVEMENT WORK ON THE RIVER LEVEN

The Committee considered that due to the extreme drought conditions prevailing during the summer months a true assessment of the situation in relation to the agreement reached with Mr. While (Minute No. 31), in connection with the cessation of abstraction for a trial period from the River Leven could not be made.

RECOMMENDED:

That due to the exceptional conditions resulting from the drought which prevailed throughout the summer months, the agreement reached between the Authority and Mr. While be re-implemented on the same terms in 1977.

5. FISH STOCKING BY THE AUTHORITY

The Regional Fisheries Officer presented a paper setting out his views in relation to the stocking of waters depleted of fish due to both natural and unnatural causes, together with his proposals for a future policy which might be adopted by the Authority in relation to such stocking with either trout or freshwater fish.

He explained that the recommendations set out in this paper had deliberately been made flexible to enable the Authority to exercise a discretion whenever a question of stocking or restocking arose, due regard being given to the particular circumstances in which a depopulation in stock in any particular water might have occurred.

A full discussion of the proposals put forward by the Regional Fisheries Officer took place. It was then

RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee approve the recommendations incorporated at (a) to (f) in paragraph 7 of the report.

6. DROUGHT SITUATION

A report was submitted which detailed the current drought situation in the Authority Area. Although the prohibitions imposed on certain prescribed uses of water had now been lifted throughout the Authority Area, applications for Orders under Section 1(3)(e) of the Drought Act, 1976, had been made to the Secretary of State in respect of Windermere and also, the River Duddon. After a public inquiry the Secretary of State had approved the Windermere application and this Order came into force on 14th October, 1976. The Order authorises the Authority to:

- (1) Abstract up to 45 mgd provided the flow in the River Leven is not less than 7.5 mgd;
- (2) To release from Windermere into the River Leven sufficient water to maintain a continuous flow of at least 7.5 mgd provided that the level of water immediately upstream of Newby Bridge Weir shall not be lowered by such releases to less than 126.0 feet AOD (Liverpool);
- (3) To disregard the overall limitation of 8,030 mg in any period of twelve consecutive months in respect of all water abstracted during the period of the order.

In accordance with the compromise agreement made with the objectors at the Public Inquiry, the Order contains a requirement for the Authority to cease pumping after 31st January, 1977, if the lake level falls below 128 feet AOD.

The application in respect of the River Duddon had subsequently been withdrawn.

In response to questions from members, the Regional Fisheries Officer stated that he had been fully consulted prior to any of the applications being made, and bearing in mind the seriousness of the situation brought about by reason of the summer drought and the need for water supplies to be maintained throughout the Region, he had used his best endeavours to minimise as far as possible the effect the reductions would have on fisheries.

The Officers assured members that normal flows would be restored to all waters within the Authority Region as soon as the current situation improved sufficiently.

7. PROPOSED RE-ALIGNMENT OF THE A590

In accordance with Minute No. 4(e)(3) of the meeting of the Regional Committee of 19th July, 1976, a report was presented on the effect of the reconstruction of the A590 on rivers in the area. The report listed the proposals which had been put forward by the Department of the Environment's Road Construction Unit in relation to two principal areas of interest at Greenodd and Newby Bridge.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and that the Committee be kept informed of any developments which could be detrimental to fishery interests.

8. REVIEW OF NET LIMITATION ORDER

At the meeting of the Committee held on 5th July, 1976, it was resolved that the provisions of the Net Limitation Order applying in the Lune and Wyre estuaries be reviewed (Minute No. 33).

The Regional Committee had considered this resolution at their meeting on 19th July, 1976, together with a Petition submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food by Mr. M. A. Taylor of Blackpool, signed by 275 salmon anglers in the Fylde area which requested a review of the provisions of the Net Limitation Order applying in the Lune estuary (Minute No. 9).

Before considering the matter further, the Regional Committee had asked for the observations and recommendations if any, of this Committee.

The Regional Fisheries Officer, the Chairmen of this Committee and the Regional Committee, had subsequently proposed that the initial investigation be undertaken by a Working Party whose first meeting should be convened during November.

RESOLVED:

(1) That a Working Party be formed to review the provisions of the Net Limitation Order at present applying in the Lune and Wyre estuaries, and that its findings and recommendations be reported in due course to this Committee;

(2) That the Working Party consist of the Chairman of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee, the Chairman of the Lune, Wyre and Furness Local Fisheries Advisory Committee, a representative of the Netsmen's Association (representing net fishing interests) and a representative of the Lune and Wyre Fisheries Association (representing rod fishing interests), together with appropriate officers.

8. FISHERIES IN THE OWNERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

It was reported that the Regional Committee at a meeting held on 19th July, 1976 (Minute No. 4(e)(2)) had approved the recommendations of this Committee regarding Fisheries in the Ownership of the Authority (Minute No. 30 of 5th July, 1976) subject to (i) recommendation (2) of that Minute being amended to read:-

"That for the same period, match fishing on Sundays only from 1st November to 31st January (both dates inclusive) be permitted at a charge of 50p per peg per day on the Halton Fishery above Forge Weir."

and (ii)

"To rights of access to the Halton Fishery being negotiated satisfactorily."

The Area Fisheries Officer assured members that within the limits imposed by reason of the availability of manpower, the fishery would be properly bailiffed during the experimental period.

9. REPORT BY AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on Fisheries Activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee.

Discussion took place on the following matters incorporated in the report:-

(1) Middleton Hatchery

Commenting on the factors which were taken into consideration before fry and ova were planted out, the Area Fisheries Officer informed members that it was policy to plant out such fish in the area from which mature specimens had been taken originally, although consideration was also given to other matters including population densities in given waters together with survival rates. Only exceptionally were fish removed for spawning purposes from the River Wyre and so these considerations did not apply there.

(2) Fish Monitoring

Concern was expressed that whilst large numbers of migratory fish had been noted congregating in the mouths of the rivers in the area, very few appeared to have moved upstream, even after the recent heavy rain-falls. The Area Fisheries Officer agreed that this was

the case and was of the opinion that although the extended period of high temperatures and low water conditions may have had some bearing on this situation, another factor could well be the recent escalation in drift netting for salmon off the Irish coast. He was influenced in this opinion due to the fact that virtually no large fish had been taken in rivers this season. Most of the specimens caught had weighed about 3 lb.

These views were endorsed by the Regional Fisheries Officer who informed members that the advent of drift netting for salmon off the east coast of Scotland had brought about a marked decrease in rod caught salmon in Scottish east coast rivers.

(3) Fish Mortalities

(4) Poaching

Commenting on the problems encountered at Skerton Weir, where it was alleged that poaching activities were constantly taking place, the Area Fisheries Officer stated that he was aware of the situation and was doing his best to combat it. He was sure that once the modifications to the fish pass had been completed the problem would be eradicated.

(5) Coarse Fish Transfers

(6) Operation of Newby Bridge Sluice

(7) Drought Conditions.

10. FISH MORTALITY - RIVER CONDER,
PROSECUTION OF OFFENDER

It was reported that Mr. K. Drinkwater of Ellel, Nr. Galgate had been prosecuted at Lancaster Magistrates' Court on 27th September, 1976, when he had pleaded guilty to a charge brought under Section 4 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1975. He was fined £200, and ordered to pay Analyst's fees of £30 and an Advocate's fee of £20.

11. PERCH MORTALITIES - WINDERMERE

The Committee received the report on perch mortalities in Windermere which had been submitted to the Water Quality Panel. The report concluded that the mortalities were unlikely to have been caused by pollution but research was continuing.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYMINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
MERSEY AND WEAVER
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE27TH OCTOBER, 1976

Present: J. S. Bailey, Esq. A. Jones, Esq.
 F. Egerton, Esq. R. Newton, Esq.
 P. W. Jennings, Esq. A. Ross, Esq.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Mr. P. W. Jennings be appointed
Chairman of the Mersey and Weaver Fisheries
Advisory Committee for the ensuing "Authority
Year".

(P. W. JENNINGS, ESQ., CHAIRMAN)

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from
Mr. P. J. Liddell and Mr. J. R. S. Watson.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

(1) In relation to Minute No. 28 - Seminar on Water
Conditions Harmful to Fish Life, the Committee thanked
the Regional Fisheries Officer and the Divisional
Scientist for their efforts in making this Seminar so
successful.

(2) In relation to Minute No. 38 - Fish Mortality -
River Dane, Mr. Egerton on behalf of Northwich Angling
Association thanked the Rivers Divisional Scientist and
his staff for their advice and help. The Committee
wished to be associated with these remarks.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the
Committee held on 23rd June, 1976, be approved as
a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. FISH STOCKING BY THE AUTHORITY

The Regional Fisheries Officer presented a paper setting out
his views in relation to the stocking of waters depleted of fish
due to both natural and unnatural causes, together with his pro-
posals for a future policy which might be adopted by the Authority
in relation to such stocking with either trout or freshwater fish.

He explained that the recommendations set out in this paper had deliberately been made flexible to enable the Authority to exercise a discretion whenever a question of stocking or restocking arose, due regard being given to the particular circumstances in which a depopulation in stock in any particular water might have occurred.

Members suggested that in cases involving fish mortalities brought about in circumstances which could only be described as an 'Act of God', or by a pollution the cause of which could not be traced, it might be possible for the associations affected to apply to the Sports Council for a grant to aid with restocking.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee approve the recommendations incorporated at (a) to (f) in paragraph 7 of the Report.

5. GREATER MANCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL TIPPING PROPOSALS

Letters had been received from the Abram Labour Club Angling Club and the National Federation of Anglers North West Regional Council expressing concern that the Greater Manchester County Council were planning to use barges to transport refuse along the Bridgewater, and Leeds and Liverpool Canals to a tipping site at Hey Brook between Abram, Wigan and Leigh. They felt that should the plan be implemented, heavy barge traffic in these canals would have a detrimental effect upon the fisheries; and that tipping at the Hey Brook site would cause pollution at Pennington Flash.

Members had received a report which set out the latest situation following consultations between Officers of the Authority and the Council. Commenting on this report, the Divisional Scientist stated that the Council had now postponed their scheme to use barges as a means of transport and, that at the present time, (apart from one small section which was already in use prior to reorganisation) they did not have planning permission to use the Hey Brook site for refuse disposal. Should the Council seek to resurrect the scheme in the future, then if the Authority were not satisfied that the use of the site posed no unacceptable risk to the quality of both surface and underground water an objection would be made to the planning application and if necessary to the granting of a licence under the provisions of the Control of Pollution Act, 1974.

6. REPORT BY DIVISIONAL SCIENTIST
ON FISHERIES MATTERS

The Divisional Scientist presented his report on Fisheries Activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee.

Reference was made to the biological survey work carried out in rivers in the area during the summer months and it was explained that this work supplemented the regular sampling procedures and it was felt that the results obtained had proved invaluable.

7. THE EFFECTS OF WEED GROWTHS ON ANGLING
IN THE WEAVER NAVIGATION DOWNSTREAM OF
VALE ROYAL LOCKS

As requested by the Committee at the meeting on 23rd June, 1976, the Divisional Scientist presented a report setting out his findings on the problem of weed growth in the River Weaver downstream of Vale Royal Locks.

In his view although flushing might assist in the removal of floating weed, the use of aquatic herbicides appeared to be the best method of dealing with the problem.

8. POLLUTION INCIDENTS, INFORMATION
TO THE PUBLIC

A request had been received from the Lymm Angling Club for the Authority to inform Angling Clubs of sources of pollution threatening their waters thus enabling them to carry out their own investigations.

It was explained that in circumstances involving pollutions, investigating officers had to follow certain recognised statutory procedures and it would therefore be unrealistic to expect the Authority to give information to the public before an investigation was complete.

In cases where the discharge was covered by a consent, or information was derived from a sample of effluent, then, by virtue of Section 12 of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1961, it was an offence to disclose any information with only three specific and narrow exceptions. Officers could not therefore be expected to contravene these provisions as the penalties for doing so were as high as those for offences of polluting a river.

It was felt that in these circumstances, officers must retain their discretion as to what information was divulged and to whom, although as far as was practicable, affected parties would be kept informed of action taken.

9. DROUGHT SITUATION

A report was submitted which detailed the current drought situation in the Authority Area. Although the prohibitions imposed on certain prescribed uses of water had now been lifted throughout the Authority Area, applications for Orders under Section 1(3)(e) of the Drought Act, 1976, had been made to the Secretary of State in respect of the following Reservoirs:-

- (1) Jumbles Reservoir, authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the Bradshaw Brook. Order came into force on 15th October, 1976.
- (2) Wayoh Reservoir, authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the Bradshaw Brook. Order came into force on 7th October, 1976.

- (3) Delph Reservoir, authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the Delph Brook. Order came into force on 1st October, 1976.
- (4) Swineshaw Reservoir, authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the Shelf Brook. Order came into force on 14th October, 1976.
- (5) Clough Bottom Reservoir, authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the Whitewell Brook. Order came into force on 7th October, 1976.
- (6) Castleshaw Reservoir, authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the Hull Brook. Order came into force on 1st October, 1976.
- (7) Greenfield Reservoir, authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the Folly Brook. Order came into force on 30th September, 1976.
- (8) Lamaload Reservoir, authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the River Dean. Order came into force on 1st October, 1976.
- (9) Bottoms and Teggnose Reservoirs, authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the River Bollin. Order came into force on 1st October, 1976.
- (10) Longdendale, Bottoms Lodge Reservoir, authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the River Etherow. Order came into force on 1st October, 1976.
- (11) New Line Reservoir, authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the tributaries of the River Irwell. Order came into force on 30th September, 1976.
- (12) Walker Wood Reservoir, authorising a reduction in the compensation water released into the Swineshaw Brook. Order awaiting confirmation.
- (13) Hurst Reservoir, Application for Order withdrawn.

Application had also been made for an Order which would have permitted ICI Limited, to abstract water from the River Dane, and to reduce temporarily the downstream flow, although this application had subsequently been withdrawn.

In addition to these applications, the Authority had applied to the Secretary of State for Orders in respect of Clowbridge, Cowpe, Greenbooth, Holden Wood and Ogden Reservoirs, where it was proposed that a "water bank" system of compensation water releases should be adopted. These applications were at present in abeyance pending discussions with the Department of the Environment.

Further applications in respect of Ashworth Moor, Dovestones, Ramsden Clough, Springmill, and Watergrove Reservoirs had now been withdrawn.

The Manager of the Rivers Division informed the Committee that the aim of the Authority in applying for these Orders had been to conserve water throughout the region, and that the Co-operation which had been received from the various fisheries interests involved in dealing with a difficult situation was fully appreciated.

The Regional Fisheries Officer stated that he had been fully consulted prior to the submission of the Orders. Although in normal circumstances he could not have agreed to such drastic reductions, due to the serious nature of the situation brought about by the drought, additional water had to be made available for storage and refilling reservoirs in order to maintain water supplies throughout the region, and it was accepted that one way to achieve this was through reduced compensation water flows. He had however, used his best endeavours to minimise as far as possible any harmful effects the reductions might have on fisheries.

Members were assured that as soon as the current situation improved sufficiently, normal flows would be restored to all waters within the Authority Region.

10. PENNINGTON FLASH - SURFACE WATER OUTFALL

Concern was expressed regarding proposals to construct a new surface water outfall which it was understood would drain into Pennington Flash.

It was felt that if this were the case there would be risk to the fishery.

RESOLVED:

That the Rivers Division be asked to investigate and report their findings to the next meeting of this Committee.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE15TH NOVEMBER, 1976FISHERIES IN THE OWNERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY
SOUTH LANCASHIRE LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. At the last meeting of the Committee on 19th July, 1976 the following recommendation was submitted from the South Lancashire Advisory Committee:-

"That on an experimental basis between 1st November, 1976, and 31st January 1977 (both dates inclusive) and 1st November, 1977 and 31st January, 1978 (both dates inclusive)

 - (1) Groundbaiting and loose feeding be permitted on the Authority's Mitton Fishery from the white marker post at the top of Hodder Foot to the white marker post at Calder Foot;
 - (2) Match fishing be allowed Sundays only, at a charge of 50p per day in the stretch of water defined (1) above;
 - (3) The price of coarse fish day tickets in the stretch of water defined in (1) above be increased to 50p.
 - (4) The recommendations be considered by the Regional Committee in the light of any comments from the Ribble Fisheries Association."
2. The Chairman of the Local Committee, in presenting the minutes, indicated that Recommendation (1), as submitted, did not in fact record accurately the decision of his Committee, who did not intend to permit groundbaiting and loose feeding throughout the whole of each week during the trial period.
3. However, the Regional Committee approved Recommendation (1) as printed.
4. The matter was again discussed at the last meeting of the South Lancashire Advisory Committee on 20th October, when the Committee confirmed that in their view and in accordance with their original intention, and having had the full observations of the Ribble Fisheries Association, the groundbaiting and loose feeding should be limited to Sundays only in connection with authorised match fishing. Recommendation (1) above was therefore amended by the Local Committee to read:-

"(1) Groundbaiting and loose feeding be permitted on the Authority's Mitton Fishery from the white marker post at the top of Hodder Foot to the white marker post at Calder Foot on Sundays only in connection with authorised match fishing."

5. In the normal course of events this amendment would have been submitted to the Regional Committee at the meeting on 15th November but as members will appreciate, the experimental period commenced on 1st November and in order to have the position clarified by that date, the Chairman of the Authority, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman of the Authority and the Chairman of the Regional Committee, agreed the amendment as proposed by the Local Committee.
6. Immediately this approval was received, publicity was given to the variation of the proposals to ensure that, as far as possible, all anglers on the Mitton Fishery were fully aware of the position appertaining from the 1st November.
7. In addition to the foregoing it is considered that the increase in the price of coarse fish day tickets to 50p should not be limited to the trial periods but should be effective at this price hereafter until any further revision takes place.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15TH NOVEMBER 1976

FISH STOCKING BY THE AUTHORITY

1. A report compiled by the Regional Fisheries Officer has been submitted to all the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees on the question of fish stocking by the Authority. A copy of this report is attached as an appendix.
2. After full discussion the recommendations in paragraph 7 of the report were agreed verbatim by all Committees other than South Lancashire, whose recommendations are set out in Minute No. 4 of that Committee.
3. The Committee are invited to approve the recommendations with such modifications as they see fit.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15TH NOVEMBER, 1976

FISH STOCKING BY THE AUTHORITY

1. Introduction

From time to time, at meetings of Fisheries Advisory Committees, members have enquired about policy in relation to trout stocking by the Authority.

Examination of this question on a regional basis has resulted in the production of this paper, which covers stocking not only with trout but with freshwater fish, and which puts forward proposals for Authority policy in relation to such work when undertaken by the Authority.

In considering what attitude the Authority should take on the question of stocking, and what policy it should adopt, it may be useful to consider the background to the need for stocking.

2. Background

Over the past 25 years, fishing pressure on public, club and association water has increased enormously. In the case of coarse fisheries, this has had relatively little impact upon stocks, as fish are almost invariably returned to the water at the end of a fishing session. In the case of trout, however, which, like salmon and sea trout, are normally taken for consumption or sale (and rising values have probably tended to make the latter use increasingly attractive), it appears that, on many waters, stocks have decreased, in some cases alarmingly, so that, increasingly, anglers have had to depend upon stocking to maintain their sport. There are, of course, exceptions to this situation where careful management, limitation of fishing effort or strictly enforced bag limits - or a combination of all three - has maintained the stock at a level capable of meeting the demands placed upon it. This position is more readily attained on enclosed waters, and many of the existing still-water fisheries in Britain are good examples of what may be achieved. On such waters, stocking with takeable trout up to a considerable size is carried on throughout the season and an annual 'take' of as much as 75% of the fish introduced has been recorded. On rivers, however, such work is complicated, and its effectiveness reduced, by the fact that there is nothing to prevent introduced fish from moving away, usually downstream, from the area into which they were released. The direct value of stocking to an individual club or owner is thus arguable, and if a Water Authority is carrying out all or part of the stocking, the desirability of financing work of such dubious value from public funds could be called in question. At the same time, work of this kind has a disproportionately high public relations value. If a Water Authority supplies fish for stocking a club water, members feel that they are "getting something for their licence fee", and that their fishery is being improved (whether or not this is true) - despite the fact that the licence fee, which is intended to contribute to the cost of many activities besides stocking, represents the cost today of only five 10" trout, and there must be few serious trout anglers who do not catch more fish than that in the course of a season.

3. Difficulties of Former River Authorities

Even in the time of the former River Authorities, when the areas of individual Authorities were much smaller than those of the Regional Water Authorities, problems arose over the question of stocking by an Authority. A number of different clubs and associations - apart from individual riparian owners - might have lengths of fishing on a particular river, and on a large river the number of such different interests could be considerable. If, as part of some annual stocking programme, trout or coarse fish, according to the nature of the water, were introduced by an Authority into the waters of some clubs, but not into those of others, the latter usually felt that they had been discriminated against - and did not hesitate to say so. The limiting factor in any work of this kind was usually a financial one, which some Authorities tried to overcome, so far as trout were concerned, by operating their own fish farms. This arrangement, while certainly convenient, was not necessarily a true economy, since costs tended to be concealed within the Authority's finances. Coarse fish were usually obtained by netting or electro-fishing on waters where the owner wished to have their numbers reduced, e.g. an over-stocked lake, or waters managed as trout fisheries.

When it is remembered that, in 1975 for example, trout introduced by clubs and individuals in the area of the former Lancashire River Authority alone totalled more than 70,000, the scale on which stocking with these fish is carried out will be appreciated. With the emphasis on stocking, principally with takeable trout, the cost last year was probably in the region of £30,000. Assuming rather less stocking in the former Cumberland River Authority area, and considerably less in the former Mersey and Weaver River Authority area, the total cost last year of introduced trout may, nevertheless, have exceeded £50,000 for the Region. For the Authority to accept responsibility, as has been suggested in some quarters, for all or the major part of, trout stocking is clearly impracticable on financial grounds alone. How then, could the problem be approached?

4. Migratory Fish

In the case of migratory fish, the rearing and introduction of young fish into suitable river systems is justified on the grounds that returning adults are available to be taken by netsmen (if any) and by anglers throughout the greater part of the river's length. Any work aimed at improving the runs of these fish entering the river is thus of benefit to the fisheries of the river as a whole - with the possible exception of the upper waters to which fish may not penetrate until after the end of the fishing season, and then only to spawn.

5. Non-migratory Trout and Coarse Fish

Where non-migratory trout or coarse fish are concerned, the position is entirely different since the benefit (if any) accruing from their introduction is necessarily a local one. However, in view of the Authority's statutory responsibilities for fisheries, it may reasonably be assumed that the carrying out by the Authority of a certain amount of stocking work is a legitimate and necessary part of its fisheries activities. The salient questions relate to the scope of this activity, the financing of it, the identification

of waters which should properly be stocked and the source of the fish with which to carry out the stocking. These points are discussed below in relation to situations in which stocking might be considered.

(i) Stocking after Pollution

Restoration of a fishery after the occurrence of a fish mortality, which can be attributed solely to pollution from the Authority's activities, is clearly a responsibility which should be accepted in full by the Authority. The obtaining of the necessary fish - be they trout or coarse fish - and their introduction into the water should be undertaken by the Fisheries Department of the Rivers Division.

Other fish mortalities will occur from time to time as a result of pollutions, the blame for which cannot readily be attributed to a particular source. In such cases allocation of responsibility is often a lengthy process and in some instances, indeed, is never achieved. Thus the owners or tenants of fisheries are all too often the only losers. If there is a clear cut court case where the polluter is prosecuted and a conviction obtained, there are firm grounds on which a claim for compensation by owner or tenant can be based. In these circumstances, any move by the Authority to re-stock the affected water, in collaboration with owner or tenant, on the basis that the re-stocking is carried out without prejudice to any right of recovery from the convicted polluter, can help to produce early restoration of the fishery. A re-stocking arrangement, however, necessarily involves inclusion in the Fisheries budget of a provision to meet this possible cost which may, or may not, be utilised during the year.

(ii) Stocking of Authority's Own Waters

The Authority currently manages a small number of fisheries of its own on rivers and rather more fisheries on its own reservoirs. These fisheries are usually operated on a permit basis and, where there is any significant fishing pressure on the water, stocking - particularly with trout - is required. In the case of the Authority's river fisheries which are on waters which are primarily game fish waters, stocking with coarse fish, in addition to the stocks which exist naturally in these waters, is unacceptable.

In the case of reservoirs, where natural spawning grounds for trout are either limited or non-existent, stocking is likely to be the only means of maintaining the fishery, and may have to be not only quite extensive, but spread out over the fishing season to ensure that the stock in the water is not unduly depleted well before the end of the season.

As manager of a fishery, the Authority has a responsibility to ensure that it offers to its permit-holders a reasonable potential for satisfactory sport. On a large, lightly-fished water such as Haweswater, the natural stock will probably be adequate to achieve this for some time ahead. On smaller and more intensively fished waters, such as the river fisheries and reservoirs at Longdendale and Rivington, only regular introduction of fish can maintain an acceptable level of stock, and such work should carry considerable priority. The cost of stocking should be met from the funds of the Division managing the fishery, but the Fisheries Department of the Rivers Division should advise on stocking levels, etc.

(iii) Stocking of Waters Generally within the Region

The extent - if any - to which the Authority should accept responsibility (beyond that suggested in (i) above) for stocking waters which it does not manage or control is a difficult one. On the one hand, if full responsibility were to be accepted, the Authority would be likely, as is indicated earlier in this paper, to be accepting a financial commitment disproportionately large in relation to that involved in carrying out its other fisheries functions. On the other hand, if no stocking at all is carried out, it could be contended that the Authority was neglecting its statutory responsibilities for the maintenance and improvement of fisheries. A further complication could arise if the Authority were to set up its own fish farms in order to supply substantial numbers of fish for general stocking.

From replies received to a letter recently sent to Regional Fisheries Officers of other Water Authorities it is clear that they are taking considerable care, in the distribution of any fish produced in their own farms, to ensure that the allegation cannot be made against them that they are in direct competition with commercial fish farmers. Fish from Authority-owned farms are used almost entirely for stocking Authorities' own waters, mainly reservoirs, and only relatively small surpluses are sold to the public either for stocking or for human consumption. It is clear that the supply of fish for stocking club, association and private waters is generally regarded as the field of the commercial fish farmer.

This is not to say, however, that the Authority might not make some general contribution in the field of stocking. It would be possible to hatch and rear trout and to release them as fed fry or fingerlings into tributary streams for the general benefit of the river system concerned, in much the same way that salmon and sea trout fry are reared and released. The drawback to such a scheme, however, lies in the fact that few tributaries do not already contain, or give access to, natural spawning trout, and thus carry their own juvenile populations. Unless these are well below the carrying capacity of the water - a point which is usually very difficult to assess - the addition of further young fish can only produce imbalance between stock, living space and food, and may result in substantial fry mortality.

On a much smaller scale, trout removed in the course of preparing nursery streams for the release of salmon and sea trout fry can be re-distributed to fishing areas. However, the numbers involved are unlikely to be sufficient to do more than relatively small local stocking, and perhaps to cause friction with clubs who have not received an allocation of fish. Despite this problem, however, there seems no reason why fish from this source should not be distributed in the area where they are obtained, provided that the owner of the water from which they are removed has no objection.

There will always be occasions when it may be desirable, as part of some survey or investigation, to release considerable numbers of trout or coarse fish into a water, probably with a dye mark or other means of identification on them, and such action is clearly well within the Authority's statutory powers.

6. Stocking with Coarse Fish

Much controversy has long existed over the merits and demerits of coarse fish stocking. By reason of their fecundity, and environmental requirements for spawning, together with the fact that, when caught, they are not normally removed permanently from the water; given a reasonably suitable habitat, coarse fish can quickly build up a large, self-supporting population, particularly in still or slow-flowing waters.

It has long been held by many anglers that the best cure for poor or deteriorating fishing results is to re-stock. In fact, under these conditions, re-stocking can sometimes be damaging to a fishery as when, for example, over-population or disease is the cause of the decline. Equally, however, stocking can be important to the success of a fishery as in the case of a new water or the introduction of a species which is absent from the water, apart from restoration of a fishery after pollution - probably the most frequent situation and one which genuinely requires stocking to be carried out.

Coarse fish for stocking can be obtained, at a cost usually considerably greater than that of trout, from a very limited number of suppliers. An alternative source is pools in which natural breeding takes place, the stocks being netted out as required, leaving mature fish to continue breeding. Efforts are being made to establish a number of these pools in the predominantly coarse fishing areas. In view of the restricted commercial supplies of coarse fish in relation to the demand which exists for them, it appears unlikely that the use by the Authority of coarse fish stock pools to help to supply the needs of clubs will lead, at any rate in the foreseeable future, to conflict with commercial interests, particularly in view of the near-impossibility of obtaining any supplies from the Continent, where such fish are more readily available, by reason of import restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the interests of control of the spread of fish disease to this country.

7. Summary and Recommendations

As future policy, therefore, it is recommended that:-

- (a) The Authority should be free to undertake restocking in order to restore a fishery, destroyed or damaged by pollution from a sewage treatment works or other installation operated by the Authority.
- (b) The Authority stock, as necessary, waters including reservoirs which it owns or leases, where fishing is made available on permit to the public.
- (c) In order to meet the commitments at (a) and (b) above, the Authority should be able to buy from commercial sources, to use existing facilities, or to set up new facilities as may be considered most effective and convenient for the purpose.
- (d) In the case of coarse fish, once facilities have been established, the Authority should be free to supply fish to clubs for restocking their waters.
- (e) On waters other than those which they own or control, the Authority at its own discretion, and with the prior consent of the owners, carry out any stocking which may appear necessary for the maintenance, improvement and development of fisheries, and in doing so, should be free to obtain fish for that purpose from whatever source may appear most suitable.
- (f) The question of charging for the supply of fish should be considered on its merits in each case and any charge made should be broadly in line with current market prices for the fish involved.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE15TH NOVEMBER 1976USE OF DOGS AS AN AID TO BAILIFFS

1. At the last meeting of the Committee on 19th July, 1976, a resolution was passed "That the use of dogs as an aid to the Authority's bailiffing staff be investigated as a matter of urgency". Enquiries have been made locally regarding the possibility of hiring a guard dog and handler to accompany bailiffs on anti-poaching patrols and it appears that such arrangements can be made. An up-to-date report will be given orally at the meeting.
2. In considering the legal implications of hiring a dog and handler, the question has arisen whether a bailiff on duty may legally take with him a third party in order to assist him in the carrying out of his duties. It is considered, however, that this problem could be overcome by appointing the handler as an Honorary Bailiff whose activities would be restricted, to such period during which he was working in company with a full-time bailiff of the Authority.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE15TH NOVEMBER 1976ALTERNATIVE WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS

1. At their meeting on 20th September, 1976, the Policy and Resources Committee received a report on Alternative Water Resource Developments. Copies of the report and the relevant Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee are attached for the information of the Committee.
2. Members of this Committee will recall that part of the process for pursuing the Water Resource Development Studies so far carried out has been through informal consultations with representatives of the appropriate local Advisory Committee.
3. It is proposed that in parallel with the proposed planning studies, discussion will continue with the local Fisheries Advisory Committees and with other river interests on the subject of the prescribed flow and abstraction conditions that will be applied to the various schemes. (Reference paragraph 8.4 Report on Alternative Water Resource Developments.)

9. WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- (a) In October, 1974, the Committee had received a report on proposals for a Planning Study to consider the requirements for water resource developments in the post-1981 period. As reported at that time, the Director of Resource Planning had established an inter-departmental committee of senior officers (the Water Resources Planning Group) to assist him in advising the Corporate Management Team on these matters.

A report was now submitted for consideration by the Committee outlining the results of the Planning Group's appraisal and their recommendations for the next stage of the Planning Study. The Report was predominantly an engineering and economic appraisal of the major water resource developments which could be of benefit to the North West Water Authority. The appraisal had taken as its starting point the schemes covered in the Water Resources Board's Report "Water Resources in England and Wales", and had included all the relevant schemes between the Scottish border and Central Wales. The report reviewed the methods used in the hydrological and engineering studies including the various assumptions made so far in the study.

An important assumption had been the basing of design droughts on a 2% probability of occurrence. In the light of the current difficult water supply situation this assumption would need to be given very careful further consideration. Different assumptions for the design droughts would not however have led to any different conclusions and recommendations in the Report, nor did this assumption prejudice any future decision on the appropriate probability of occurrence to assume when planning the Region's supplies.

There were four fundamental questions which required consideration:-

- (i) The strategy the Authority wishes to adopt regarding the appropriate level of regional self-sufficiency, recognising that eventual action would have to conform with national strategy;
- (ii) When detailed planning work should be embarked upon for the next regional supply source;
- (iii) The approach the Authority wishes to adopt regarding the nature of consultation with Local Authorities and other interested bodies on possible regional schemes;
- (iv) Which schemes should be the subject of more detailed study.

In view of the importance of this matter, all Members of the Authority had been invited to attend the Committee's meeting.

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) That the Authority locate its next major water resource within the Region;
- (2) That detailed planning work be started now, on a time scale directed towards being able to take action in time to meet a possible Regional deficit in the mid-1980's;
- (3) That the next stage of planning work comprise engineering and environmental studies on a short list of schemes, in full consultation with local authorities and other interested bodies, and in sufficient depth to enable the Authority to decide which scheme should be selected for promotion;
- (4) That the schemes to be included in the short list be estuarial storage in Morecambe Bay, enlargement of the existing Haweswater Reservoir, and new reservoirs at Borrow Beck and at Hellifield;
- (5) That in order to improve the use of the Authority's existing resources and to add to the available supplies of the region, all necessary powers for the Shap-Lune bridging scheme be sought;
- (6) That in addition to the above, work be undertaken to ensure that optimum use is being made of existing sources;
- (7) That the Authority be receptive to any request from the Government to examine in detail the potential for exports in association with the satisfaction of the internal water deficits that are forecast for the North West region itself.

(b) Organisation for Water Resource Development

The Committee also considered the outline organisation required to conduct the detailed studies recommended above.

The engineering appraisal would draw to the greatest extent possible on the Authority's existing manpower, particularly for hydrological work and studies on major aqueducts and treatment plants. It would be necessary to retain Consulting Engineers for a detailed study of each of the schemes on the short list, as the Authority did not have sufficient manpower for such work.

The study of environmental impact would be of greatest value if it were carried out in close co-operation with the Planning Authorities involved. Exploratory discussions had taken place with County Planning Officers and with the Lake District National Park Officer, who were sympathetic to the idea of setting up a joint planning study. In the near future each of the authorities with Structure Plan responsibilities would be formally invited to take part in a joint environmental impact study, consisting predominantly of a technical appraisal at officer level of the impact of each scheme on the area of

the respective authority. This Authority had no staff available with the expertise to run such a study, and it would therefore be necessary to engage Planning Consultants for this task.

It was suggested that an informal Regional Resource Advisory Group, consisting of a small group of Members, should be established to whom officers could refer for political guidance.

It was also suggested that there should be member involvement in the Environmental Impact Study by setting up an Environmental Impact Co-ordination Committee under the chairmanship of a member of this Authority. Such a forum would provide for joint discussions at member level between this Authority and the other authorities in the region and would be a valuable contribution to the decision making process.

RECOMMENDED:

(1) That the proposals outlined above for the organisation of the detailed studies be approved;

(2) That the Chairman discuss further with Members and subsequently approve the membership of the Regional Resource Advisory Group and the Chairmanship and Vice Chairmanship of the Environmental Impact Co-ordination Committee.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE15TH NOVEMBER 1976NETTING ON THE SOLWAY FIRTH

At the last meeting of the Committee held on 19th July, 1976, (Minute No. 15) it was requested that a progress report be submitted to the next meeting on the current state of negotiations between the Authority and the Annondale and Eskdale District Council regarding the dispute over the netting rights in the Solway Firth within the area of the Council's Ancient Charter.

Consultations have now taken place between the Authority's and the Council's legal officers. A brief has been prepared and this has been submitted to both Scottish and English Counsel requesting clarification of the legal position respecting the Charter fishery. Their opinions are now awaited.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15TH NOVEMBER 1976

WORTHINGTON RESERVOIRS

The Recreation Sub-Committee at a meeting held on 1st November, 1976, considered a report on the Worthington Reservoirs project.

The Committee agreed the recommendations contained in this report and asked that copies be sent to the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee for information.

A copy of the report is attached as an Appendix.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE

1ST NOVEMBER, 1976

WORTHINGTON RESERVOIRS

(CODE NO. E/92/05/005)

1. This project has been the subject of delay since it was reported to the Sub-Committee on 21st April, 1975, and expenditure of £15,000 authorised by the Water Management Committee on 2nd June, 1975. There has been further consideration of the operational constraints demanded by water quality requirements at the site but these have now been resolved partly through a decision to provide two toilet facilities each on opposite sides of the lower reservoir.
2. There was also protracted delay in connection with the planning application, mainly because of requirements regarding vehicular access and the provision of car parking space, the initial requirement resulting from consultations being prohibitively expensive. It was therefore decided to make a planning application without the provision of a car park, because the area is easily accessible to many people on foot, by cycle and bus, and because there will eventually be nearby car parking provision as part of the GMC Douglas Valley Parkway scheme which includes Haigh Country Park. Meanwhile security considerations obliged the Divisional Manager to terminate use of existing parking areas near the treatment plant which had been used by anglers and to close the area to the casual tolerated access which had taken place in the past.
3. The planning application of October, 1975, was approved in February, 1976, subject to the provisions of parking facilities and landscaping. Portaloo facilities had been included in the scheme to minimise costs in "doubling up" the toilet facilities and they must be replaced by 1981. Prolonged negotiations regarding car parking have now produced planning approval for a limited parking area for 32 vehicles in a landscaped setting and it has been necessary to provide for the purchase of an isolated adjoining paddock to enable sufficient space for public use and picnicking. It was felt desirable to press forward with this scheme because of the importance of this very pretty site for casual recreation and angling, particularly as there is a shortage of coarse fishing on a day ticket basis in the Wigan area.
4. After a period of experimental fishing it has been found that a positive stocking programme would produce a very effective fishery and it is recommended that the waters should be stocked from the outset of the scheme.

The revised financial provision that will be required for the carrying out of the overall scheme shown on Drawing Nos. HQR/R/5/3 and 4 is as follows:-

	£
(a) Two Portaloo toilet units	2,250
(b) Footpath improvements, site earthworks, drainage, foundations, fencings and land purchase	17,000
(c) Car Park site works and paving	2,750
(d) Fish stocking with Roach, Bream, Tench and Mirror Carp	3,500
(e) Landscaping with fencing and seeding	4,000
	<hr/>
	30,000
	<hr/>

As soon as the works are completed it is intended that the reservoirs should be opened to the public and day ticket angling commenced.

5. Negotiations are now well advanced with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in connection with their being licensed to set up a Nature Reserve on the two northern reservoirs and a further report on this part of the scheme will be made as soon as licence terms have been agreed, and the Society's proposals are set out in detail. This part of the scheme should occasion little cost, the repair of an existing building being under consideration. It is hoped that this might be done from savings on the scheme or voluntary labour.
6. It is recommended that the revised scheme for Worthington Reservoirs set out above and on Drawings Nos. HQR/R/5/3 and 4 be approved at a total estimated cost of £30,000.



North West Water Authority

Dawson House, Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LW
Telephone Penketh 4321

GM/VE

9th November, 1976.

To: Members of the Regional
Fisheries Advisory Committee.

Dear Sir,

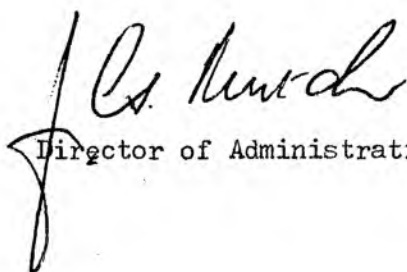
Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee
15th November, 1976 - Additional Items

The Regional Fisheries Officer has to-day received from the
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food reports on

- 1) Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis.
- 2) Fish disease screening, testing and control.

As both these items involve matters of policy, it is considered
appropriate for them to be discussed by the Committee at the
meeting on the 15th November rather than defer them to the next
meeting on 7th February, 1977. The relevant papers are attached
hereto as Items 10 and 11 respectively, which means that Any
Other Business will now be considered at Item 12 on the Agenda.

Yours faithfully,


Director of Administration.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE15TH NOVEMBER 1976INFECTIOUS PANCREATIC NECROSIS

1. Until quite recently, this disease has not been recognised as existing in Great Britain, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has always imposed stringent controls on imports of salmonid fish and ova with a view to preventing its transfer from the Continent.
2. In the course of the last few years however, a great deal of work has been carried out on the disease by the Ministry's Fish Disease Laboratory at Weymouth, which has revealed, among other things, that the disease can be carried by, and can, apparently, affect, certain species of coarse fish, which in turn, can transmit the disease to salmonid fish.
3. As a result of this work, and consequent upon the spread of the disease in fish farms in Scotland as a result of the importation of at least one batch of infected eggs, despite all the Ministry's precautions, some basic rethinking of the Ministry's policy in relation to this disease has taken place. A paper recently received from the Fish Disease Laboratory sets out a proposed new policy for consideration and comment by Water Authorities, and a copy of this paper is attached as an Appendix.
4. Against the background of the present IPN disease situation in this country, the policy set out appears sensible and realistic, and the officers recommend its endorsement, and that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food should be so informed.

FISH DISEASE LABORATORY, WEYMOUTH

PROPOSED NEW IPN POLICY FOR CONSIDERATION BY RWA'S

1. IPN is probably much more widely disseminated than has been thought. Although infected eggs were imported from Denmark into Scotland it is possible that the disease was in any case endemic, and its presumed absence was probably because it had not been adequately looked for.
2. Although IPN is widely disseminated some waters are probably clear of it.
3. IPN is a disease of young fish up to the age of approximately six months. Older fish may carry the virus and disseminate it, but they do not usually show signs of the disease. Fish which have been infected after the age of six-months suffer no ill effects and are not normally affected by IPN although stress and overcrowding can in a few cases result in an outbreak of the clinical disease amongst adults.
4. IPN virus, being widely disseminated, may be isolated from a number of sources, but its isolation may indicate only that the virus is present. The clinical disease itself may be absent and will normally be absent in stocks over six-months old.
5. Control measures should therefore be confined only to fish under six-months old, but under these circumstances it will be essential that hatcheries, fry ponds and brood stocks are protected from infection.
6. The presence of IPN virus without any sign of disease will be recorded but no further measures will be taken by FDL.
7. If there are clinical signs of IPN disease on any part of a farm, hatchery, rearing pond, brood stock or elsewhere a 16-day Holding Order will be placed upon the whole farm and no movement of live fish will be permitted. The Holding Order will be repeated every 16 days until the farm is clear of visible signs of the disease.

8. If the farmer agrees to slaughter the stock showing signs of IPN and disinfect the affected holding facilities, the 16-day Holding Order will be lifted as soon as disinfection is complete and has been inspected by the Ministry. The Ministry will undertake to recommend sources of tested eggs or fish for re-stocking.
9. As soon as the 16-day Holding Order is lifted sales of fish may recommence.
10. If the farmer does not agree to slaughter the infected stock a succession of 16-day Holding Orders will be placed upon the farm as a whole, or an Infected Area Order may be placed and, as long as clinical signs of the disease persist, no movement of any live fish or fish products may be made without Ministry approval. Under these circumstances the farmer may notify the Ministry when he thinks all signs of disease have disappeared and the Ministry will then carry out an inspection of the farm. If on inspection it is found to be free of all clinical signs of disease, the Holding Orders or the Infected Area Order will be lifted and business may be resumed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Those farmers who have clear stocks should go to great lengths to ensure that they re-stock only from IPN-free sources.
2. Clinical disease will usually occur only in hatcheries and fry rearing ponds so that fish whose health status is not known should not be placed in the water supply to them. Certificated brood stock, on the other hand, should be kept above the hatchery, and not below it.
3. Hatcheries situated on rivers or other sources of water liable to contamination by disease or other causes are always at risk. They should be on spring or bore hole or other pure water sources and not more than 500 metres from that source. The intervening 500 metres should be directly under the control of the fish farmer concerned.

INFORMATION

1. Such research as has been carried out gives no evidence of infection in wild fish stocks below infected farms.
2. Transference of fish to less densely populated conditions is known to produce an immediate decrease in incidence of IPN and its rapid clearance. In other words, crowding causes stress and stress is probably involved in the clinical disease.
3. Natural stocks of fry or fingerlings are usually in optimal environmental conditions, and not overcrowded. That is another indication that they are less likely than farmed stocks to be infected with IPN.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE15TH NOVEMBER, 1976FISH DISEASE SCREENING, TESTING AND CONTROL

1. Arising from discussions between the Water Space Amenity Commission and Dr. J. P. Stevenson, the Director of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Fish Disease Laboratory, Weymouth, a meeting was held in London on 26th October, 1976, between Dr. Stevenson and Regional Fisheries Officers of all Water Authorities and representatives of the Water Companies' Association.
2. The principal matters which were considered at the meeting were the identification of Water Authorities' requirements on fish disease screening, testing and control (with particular reference to fish farms) and possible means of collaboration between the Fish Diseases Laboratory and Water Authorities to meet these requirements. The following is a summary of the outcome.
3. (1) Regular screening of fish farms is important and desirable as a guard against the spread, through distribution of fish from them, of Notifiable Diseases listed under the Diseases of Fish Act, 1937.
(2) There are three ways in which this requirement can be met:
 - (a) By the establishment of separate laboratories in each Water Authority Area, each staffed and equipped to deal with all problems of a virological, bacteriological or mycological nature.
 - (b) By the establishment of a central Water Authority Diagnostic Laboratory which would necessarily be similar to the existing Fish Disease Laboratory at Weymouth.
 - (c) By closer collaboration with the Fish Disease Laboratory, which would involve the following considerations. Firstly, one or two Inspectors (under the Diseases of Fish Act) should be appointed in each Water Authority, who would be trained at the Fish Disease Laboratory in the recognition of disease symptoms, and in the techniques of taking and packing the samples which would be required for diagnostic work at the Laboratory. Such an arrangement would greatly reduce the present requirement for live samples of diseased fish to be delivered to Weymouth, which is a difficult and uncertain task in view of the considerable distance often involved. Packing, despatch and transit of material would thus be much simplified.

Secondly, although the present staff of the Fish Disease Laboratory is adequate to cope with the existing workload, it would be quite inadequate to handle the greatly increased input of routine samples which would result from regular inspection and screening of fish farms throughout England and Wales. There is, at present, no possibility of increasing the staff of the Laboratory, and Dr. Stevenson suggested that this problem might be overcome by the provision, from Water Authority funds of a pool fund to finance the employment of

the necessary additional junior support staff and one officer of supervisory grade (Scientific Officer or Higher Scientific Officer). It was emphasised that the support staff would not need to be highly qualified, as they would be engaged on preparative work on the specimens sent in, prior to their examination by specialist staff.

With regard to the appointment of Inspectors, Dr. Stevenson suggested that these might be appointed from among existing scientific staff of Water Authorities, such as Biologists, so that no additional appointments would be required, although, in view of the additional duties and responsibilities which these officers would be called upon to accept, it might be necessary to consider regrading them.

It was considered that this arrangement would prove by far the cheapest method of providing the service required, and there was no reason why it should not be as effective as anything which might be achieved by the adoption of the arrangements referred to in (a) and (b) above.

- (3) Dr. Stevenson further suggested the setting-up of a Scientific Working Group on Fish Diseases, on which Water Authorities would be represented. This would provide a two-way channel of communication between the Fish Diseases Laboratory and Water Authorities, which, he felt, would improve the rather indifferent liaison which had hitherto existed. One, or possibly two, meetings a year were envisaged, and it was felt that these should preferably be of an informal nature in order to encourage a free exchange of views and close collaboration between the Laboratory and Water Authorities.
4. The Committee may wish to recommend that the proposal in paragraph 3(3) be approved and the proposals in paragraph 3(2)(c) be approved subject to financial resources being available.